Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 COTONO 00496 070909 Z

41
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 HEW-08 RSR-01

/142 W
---------- 006840
R 061710 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0496

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, DM, FR
SUBJ: DAHO- FRENCH RELATIONS

PARIS PASS AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING HIS GOVERNMENT' S ATTITUDE, HAS TAKEN FIRM STAND IN OPPOSING DEMANDS FROM FRENCH BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR OFFICIAL INTERVENTION ON THEIR BEHALF. REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION FOLLOWED TOUGH KEREKOU ULTIMATUM OF MARCH
20 THAT FOREIGN BUSINESSES REINVEST PORTION OF PROFITS IN COUNTRY OR GET OUT. (COTONOU 0409).

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD ME ON APRIL 5 THAT HE HAD MEETING RECENTLY WITH BUSINESSMEN AT WHICH HE TOLD THEM THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER EXPECT TO OPERATE IN THE PRIVILEDGED ENVIRONMENT OF PAST. DAHOMEY IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND FOREIGN BUSINESS MUST ADJUST HERE AS IT WOULD IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HE ADVISED BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE THEIR PRIVATE CALCULATIONS ON WHETHER FURTHER INVESTMENT WAS IN THEIR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

INTEREST. IF SO, THEY SHOULD TAKE STEPS IMMEDIATELY TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD FAITH TO MRGD. IF CALCULATION NEGATIVE, THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED BE ASKED LEAVE COUNTRY IN 48 HOURS AFTER DEADLINE SET BY KEREKOU IN JUNE. (COTONOU 0409). WHEN ASKED BY BUSINESSMEN WHAT ACTION GOF WILL TAKE TO PRECLUDE NATIONALIZATION, VAN GREVENYNGHE TOLD INQUIRERS THAT GOF COULD DO NOTHING BEFORE ACT HAD OCCURRED. SHOULD NATIONALIZATION TAKE PLACE, THEN GOF WOULD TAKE USUAL LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC STEPS TO GAIN COMPENSATION FOR CITIZENS.

3. COMMENTING ON THINGS KEREKOU HAS ASKED OF FOREIGN BUSINESS, VAN GREVENYNGHE SAID OTHER FRANCOPHONE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING IVORY COAST AND GABON, LONG AGO QUIETLY INSISTED FOREIGN BUSINESS REINVEST PART OF THEIR PROFITS, KEEP BOOKS AND INCORPORATE IN COUNTRY, AND PAY TAXES. NONE OF CONCRETE MEASURES YET SUGGESTED COULD BE DESCRIBED BY REASONABLE MEN AS " REVOLUTIONARY". IN FACT, KEREKOU PUBLICALLY DISCLAIMED, IN SPEECH AT PARAKOU, INTENTION HIS GOVERNMENT TO NATIONALIZE PRIVATE BUSINESSES. DIFFERENCE IN DAHOMEY, ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, IS FACT THAT PRESIDENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET HAVE EMPLOYED PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ISSUE THREATS WHICH WERE MADE IN PRIVATE AND COUCHED IN MORE POLITE TERMS IN OTHER FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: VAN GREVENYNGHE' S " UNSYMPATHETIC" RESPONSE TO DEMANDS
FROM FRENCH BUSINESSMEN NO DOUBT IS KNOWN TO MEMBERS MRGD. IT PROBABLY FACTOR IN ENCOURAGING WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS MORE " CORDIAL" OFFICIAL RELATIONS WHICH NOW EXIST BETWEEN GOF AND MRGD. ANOTHER ELEMENT, HE BELIEVES, WAS FRIENDLY, HELPFUL WELCOME LEFTIST MINEDUCATION BADJEGOUME RECEIVED ON RECENT VISIT TO PARIS. ACCORDING VAN GREVENYNGHE, BADEGOUME WAS GIVEN MUCH OF WHAT HE ASKED FOR IN TERMS OF EXPANDED FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO EDUCATION. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU' S POINTED REMARKS MADE MARCH 23 ON OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY NEW DAHOMEAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS (SEE PARIS 8720), ALSO FACTOR IN BRINGING MORE REALITY TO FRANCO-DAHOMEAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING VAN GREVENYNGHE, POMPIDOU' S REMARKS SEEM TO HAVE INDUCED SOME DOUBT, AT LEAST AMONG MEMBERS OF
MRGD, ON COMMONLY HELD DAHOMEAN ASSUMPTION THAT FRANCE PLACES GREAT VALUE ON HER RELATIONS WITH DAHOMEY AND WILL PAY HIGH PRICE TO PRESERVE THEM.
MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COTONO00496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaaahugb.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971204
Subject: DAHO- FRENCH RELATIONS PARIS PASS AMBASSADOR ANDERSON
TAGS: PFOR, DM, FR
To: ABIDJAN
AF
LAGOS
LOME
NIAMEY
OUAGADOUGOU
PARIS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005